III. PROTECTION.

(3) Civil Justice—(*Continued*).

38. Reforms to be introduced in the administration of Civil Justice.

Mr. K. A. Krishna Pattar (Member, Trading Classes, Quilon) said that he was at one with Mr. Kochukrishna Pillai regarding the need for passing definite rules for the valuation of improvements. He also supported Mr. Ganapathi Pillai's suggestions for amending the Village Panchayat Courts Regulation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

39. Suggestions for the better administration of Justice, Civil and Criminal, with special reference to the Shencotta Taluk.

Mr. S. Subrahmanya Karayalar B. A. (Member, Shencotta Taluk) before proceeding with his subject, spoke about the desirability of placing the taluk under a superior officer of the status of the Sub-Divisional Officer of the Tinnevelly District, as important questions had to be dealt with by the presiding officer of the taluk.

He pointed out the need for a separate Munsiff, a separate Magistrate and a separate Revenue Tahsildar for the taluk, as litigants in civil cases were put to great inconvenience owing to the Munsiff, who was also a Magistrate and a Revenue Tahsildar, being on tour often on account of his revenue duties. He also pleaded for the re-introduction of Tamil as the court language as was the case till 1085, Shencotta being a purely Tamil taluk. Further, the Magistrate-Munsiff had to come in contact with Tamil-speaking people of the adjoining British territories who did not know Malayalam in which language depositions in court were taken down. The Member also advocated the appointment of Tamil-knowing officers to the taluk.

He then referred to the difficulties of under-trial prisoners at the hands of the Police and suggested the desirability of introducing the sub-jail system with a view to place them under the control of the Magistracy.

The Member also requested that the Dewan's address to the Assembly and the annual Administration Reports be translated into Tamil and Tamil copies thereof supplied to the Members.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

40. Need for shifting the Munsiff's Court and the First Class Magistrate's Court at Perumpavoor to Alwaye.

Mr. Aiyappan Kumaran (Member, Alangad Taluk) said that his subject was an old one and, for the reasons repeatedly urged by the Members from the taluk, he requested that the Munsiff's court and the First Class Magistrate's court at Perumpavoor might be transferred to Alwaye. If that was not possible, a new Munsiff's court should be established at Alwaye.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

41. Establishment of a Munsiff's Court at Changanacherry.

Mr. Ousep Devasya (Member, Trading Classes, Changanacherry) submitted that the subject was a very old one. There were as many as 18,000 merchants in the taluk which would show what an important commercial centre Changanacherry was. At present, the people of the taluk had to file civil suits in four courts. If the Government were not for opening a new court, one of the additional courts in the State might at least be transferred to Changanacherry.

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Dewan's reply.—Every time a representation on this subject was made, the matter was referred to the High Court who have, so far, not been convinced of the necessity of a separate Munsiff's Court for Changanacherry. In such a matter, the Government feel bound to accept the opinion of the High Court.

42. Establishment of Village Panchayat Courts in each taluk.

Mr. K. Chidambarathanu Pillai (Member, Tovala Taluk) said that the litigants were put to great trouble and inconvenience in conducting petty suits for small amounts in the Munsiffs' Courts. Though the Dewan's opening address at the last session of the Assembly contained a promise to open more Village Panchayat Courts, nothing had been done for the establishment of such courts. He prayed for the opening of a Village Panchayat Court in each taluk. With reference to Nanjanad, the Member suggested the desirability of dividing the taluks of Tovala and Agasteeswaram into 3 or 4 convenient blocks and of providing each block with a court.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

43. Need for the appointment of a *Kazi* in each of the principal Towns.

Mr. Gnaniyar Sayyid Taha Sahib (Member, Nominated) said that formerly *kazis* were the judges who settled all religious disputes among the Mahomedans. In British India, *kazis* were appointed to assist judges with their opinion in respect of suits relating to religious matters among Mahomedans. Persons so appointed were well versed in Mahomedan law and religion and their opinions on matters pertaining to religious rites, marriage ceremonies, endowments, partition, &c., were very valuable. He added that, if *kazis* were appointed here also, they would be of great help to Government in deciding religious disputes which often culminated in the closing of mosques to the great mortification of the learned and religious men in the community. He, therefore, prayed that *kazis*, with the same powers as in British India, might be appointed in the important towns of the State.

In answer to the Dewan's query, the Member said that the community would be willing to have a law enacted on the lines of the British Indian Act XII of 1880 on the subject.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's suggestion will be considered.

(4) Registration.

44. Desirability of amending Sections 25, 33, 59 and 60 of the Registration Regulation, II of 1087.

Mr. N. C. Kesava Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Neyyattinkara) explained the practice obtaining at present in the matter of granting copies of registered non-testamentary documents and also the difficulties experienced now. The suggestion of the Member to obviate the difficulties was to revive the old practice under which the party was asked to present a true copy of the document along with the original. He requested that section 25 be amended suitably.

Section 33 related to testamentary documents and what was urged in regard to section 25 would apply to section 33 also.

Sections 59 and 60 had reference to the practice of sending a memo of documents. If a document relating to a property situate within the sub-district of Tovala happened to be registered for some reason or other at Parur, the Sub-Registrar of the latter station in whose office the document was being registered, sent a copy of the memo to the Sub-Registrar within whose sub-district the property was situate. The difficulty in regard to such an arrangement was that, if the executant who happened to be a native of Tovala and who, for some reason had to execute the document at Parur, wanted a copy of the document after he returned to Tovala, he had to travel all the way to Parur. That caused a good deal of inconvenience to the party. The Member's prayer was that, in all such cases, a true copy of the document be ordered to be sent to the

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